



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

Tampa
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday - May 12, 2010
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**PAIN CLINIC OWNER UNDER TWO INDICTMENTS
PLEADS GUILTY TO PRESCRIPTION DRUG TRAFFICKING CONSPIRACY
AND IS SCHEDULED FOR A SECOND PLEA HEARING**

Tampa, Florida - United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton announces that Troy Wubbena (age 44, of Tampa), a physician assistant and co-owner of the Neurology & Pain Center clinics located in Tampa, Lakeland, Orlando, Jacksonville, and St. Petersburg, pleaded guilty Monday to one of two indictments against him for trafficking in prescription drugs and is scheduled for a plea hearing on the second indictment next week. Wubbena pleaded guilty Monday before Magistrate Judge Thomas Wilson to conspiring to traffic in Oxycodone. He faces a maximum penalty in that case of twenty years in federal prison.

According to the plea agreement supporting Monday's plea, Wubbena, who was prohibited in the State of Florida from dispensing, administering, or prescribing controlled substances, illegally distributed Oxycodone by obtaining blank prescription forms pre-signed by his supervising physician and filling them out for Oxycodone in the names of purported patients; by recruiting individuals to act as patients and to fill the prescriptions at pharmacies throughout the Middle District of Florida; and by directing that all or a portion of the Oxycodone obtained be returned to him for illegal distribution. Wubbena also illegally distributed the drugs by filling out prescriptions for individuals without their knowledge or consent.

Wubben is charged in a second indictment, along with his supervising physician, Dr. Jeffrey Friedlander, with conspiracy to illegally to prescribe Oxycodone and conspiracy to defraud Medicare. Friedlander recently pleaded guilty in that case, and Wubben is scheduled for a plea hearing next Tuesday, May 18, before Magistrate Thomas Wilson.

Both of the cases against Wubben were investigated by the United States Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Inspector General; the Florida Department of Law Enforcement; and the Florida Office of the Attorney General Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. The cases are being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kathy J.M. Peluso.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until proven guilty.